

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AGR-05 EB-07 AID-05

COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /073 W  
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P 181536Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5794

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 23 WASHINGTON VISIT OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL:  
U.S. APPLICATIONS FOR SENIOR FAO AND WFP POSITIONS.

FODAG

REF: STATE 036646.

1. REFTEL (ON CANADIAN NOMINATION FOR WORLD FOOD PROGRAM)  
INDICATES DEPARTMENT PLANS TO RAISE U.S. APPLICATIONS FOR FAO  
POSITIONS WITH FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA DURING HIS  
FEBRUARY 23 VISIT TO WASHINGTON. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO  
WROTE OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT TO PAUL BYRNES  
(IO/AGR) (WITH COPIES TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS AND DR. MOREY  
OF IO, AND DR. PHILLIPS OF AGRICULTURE), URGING EXTREME CAUTION  
ON THIS SUBJECT. LETTER WAS HELD TO REFLECT DR. PHILLIPS TALKS  
WITH SAOUMA, AND WAS POUCHED ONLY FEBRUARY 13, THUS THIS TELEGRAM  
TO BE SURE MAIN POINTS RAISED ARE CONSIDERED.

2. MAIN POINT IS THAT SURE WAY TO KILL U.S. APPLICANT'S CHANCES  
IS TO PRESS SAOUMA FOR COMMITMENT. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN LETTER  
TO BYRNES, TO DRIVE HOME THIS POINT, HAS LISTED SIX INSTANCES IN  
WHICH SUCH PRESSURES BOOMERANGED. EVEN IF SAOUMA DOES NOT  
REACT NEGATIVELY AT THE MOMENT, HIS STAFF SAY THEY HEAR IT  
TOLD THEM IN HIGH TEMPER LATER. THUS FAR HE HAS COMMENTED  
FAVORABLY ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION TO HIS STAFF THAT U.S.  
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HAS NOT PRESSED HIM.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT RAISE U.S. APPLICANTS AT ALL. WE KNOW SAOUMA HAS BEEN BRIEFED TO TALK WITH US AND IF U.S. OFFICIALS DO NOT SHOW INTEREST, OR RAISE SUBJECT IF HE DOES NOT, HE MAY THINK USG HAS NO INTEREST. WE SUGGEST THAT NO MORE BE DONE ON SPECIFIC CASES THAN LIST A FEW HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICANS, CITING GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT FOR THEM, WHERE THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DONE, AND LEAVE MATTER FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, APART FROM SPECIFIC CASES, U.S. OFFICIALS SHOULD INDICATE CONCERN ABOUT GENERAL DECLINE IN U.S. REPRESENTATION--DROPPING BELOW 10 PERCENT OF GEOGRAPHICALLY APPOINTED POSITIONS FOR FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER 1975, AND PUTTING US BEHIND BRITISH. (IN DECEMBER U.S. PERCENTAGE HAS FURTHER DECLINED TO 9.7 PERCENT.) WITH ITS MAJOR ROLE IN AGRICULTURE AND ITS GREAT NUMBERS OF WELL-TRAINED PERSONNEL, U.S. SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE PREDOMINANT POSITION (ARGUMENT WITH WHICH SAOUMA MAY BE SWAYED, BECAUSE DESPITE HIS FRENCH EDUCATION IN AGRONOMY, HE HAS SENT HIS SON TO CORNELL FOR TRAINING). WE UNDERSTAND SAOUMA HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON SUGGESTION THAT UNITED STATES ENTER MORE HEAVILY INTO ASSOCIATE EXPERT PROGRAM, WHICH THUS FAR HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO SMALL-SCALE AID AUTHORIZATION. WE IN ROME STRONGLY FAVOR MORE GENERAL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM, AS USEFUL METHOD OF INJECTING YOUNG AMERICAN BLOOD INTO FAO. BUT THIS WOULD TAKE YEARS, AND WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON CURRENT GENERAL DECLINE IN U.S. PARTICIPATION OR ON HOLDING OF KEY POSTS BY U.S. NATIONALS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 36646  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEBRUARY 23 WASHINGTON VISIT OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL: U.S. APPLICATIONS FOR SENIOR FAO AND WFP POSITIONS.  
**TAGS:** AORG, APER, FAO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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